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THE Baptist Record

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BRIEFS

VIDEOGRAPHY COUPLE TAKES MINN. TO COURT

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP) — Christian filmmakers Carl and Angel Larsen are asking a U.S. District Court in Minnesota to reinstate their challenge to a state law that could force them to produce media supporting same sex marriage if they expand into the wedding video business. On Sept. 20, the court dismissed the couple's lawsuit against the state over portions of the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The law violates the couple's First and Fourteenth Amendment rights including the freedoms of religious exercise and speech, say their attorneys at Alliance Defending Freedom.

MASS SHOOTING HITS MIDDLE TN. CHURCH

ANTIOCH, TN. (BP) — A pastor and his wife were among eight people injured in a Sept. 24 mass casualty shooting at Burnette Chapel Church of Christ in suburban Nashville that also resulted in one fatality. According to news media reports, church usher Robert Engle, 22, was pistol-whipped by the gunman but managed to retrieve a gun from his vehicle and hold the gunman until police arrived. Engle has a valid carry permit, reported Nashville's WKRN television. Pastor Joey Spann, 60, was listed in critical condition at press deadline while his wife Peggy, 65, and all others injured were listed as stable, according to WKRN.

LAWSUIT ALLEGES FEMA IS UNFAIR TO CHURCHES

WASHINGTON (BP) — Three small churches damaged in Hurricane Harvey's unprecedented Texas deluge are jointly suing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for discriminating against churches by preventing them from seeking disaster recovery funding available to other nonprofits, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty alleged in the lawsuit filed Sept. 5. FEMA summarily bars churches from seeking emergency aid because churches primarily use their buildings for religious purposes. Becket said in its press release announcing the case.



FOR THE VICTIMS — Leeke County Sheriff Greg Waggoner, a member of First Church, Carthage, stirs a chicken dish at the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) Mass Feeding Unit stationed after Hurricane Irma at Idlewild Church in Lutz, FL, in the Tampa area. The Mass Feeding Unit was deactivated Sept. 27 after two weeks of duty producing up to 20,000 meals per day for storm victims and first responders. (BR photo courtesy of Philip Price)

CP overages to aid relief

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — Any Cooperative Program (CP) overages will go to help the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, in its Sept. 18-19 meeting in Nashville, voted to

utilize overages in the 2016-2017 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for disaster relief in two ways:

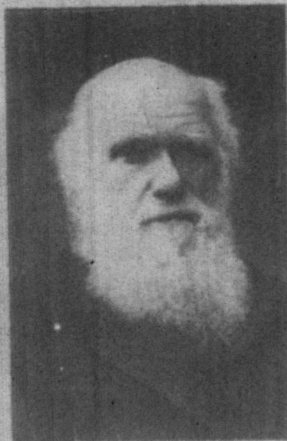
■ Designating the first \$1.25 million of any overage in the SBC's \$189 million allocation budget for disaster relief in Florida and Texas by

the Send Relief ministry of the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

■ Redirecting all of the overage that would go to the Executive Committee to the International Mission Board (IMB) for international disaster relief

see CP on p. 6

Natural selection theory questioned



DARWIN

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — The Darwinian concept of natural selection seems pretty straightforward: The most fit survive and pass their genes on to their offspring, while unfit organisms die off.

New research published in the Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics, shows survival is a lot more complicated, and natural selection is neither clear-cut nor provable. The researchers, who study natural selection as it relates to infectious diseases, explained the theory does not account for environmental changes.

For example, some weeds in a vacant lot may carry a gene variation that helps them thrive in hot sunshine while others favor cool shade.

Weather patterns could change over time, or builders might erect or tear down structures around the lot, changing the sunny and shady areas. Such a change would also alter the survival benefit of sun-loving or shade-thriving genes.

Cooperative gene variations also exist that seem to provide no survival benefit for individual organisms, such as insects with genes that cause some to destroy the eggs of mere workers in order to protect the predominance of the queen.

Such a gene variation would do nothing to help the individual insect survive, though it certainly would benefit the queen.

Randy Guliuza, an engineer, physician, and science expert

see THEORY on p. 6

Churches alerted to wire fraud email scam

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A clever scam is apparently hitting church offices around the country and may be causing the loss of thousands of dollars. Social media sites for church secretaries and office workers are attempting to expose the con game.

"We were scammed!" warned one church secretary on a social media site. "My co-worker got an e-mail from the pastor telling her to do a wire transfer. When the pastor came in after his lunch meeting, she told him the confirmation was on his desk."

"Confirmation for what?" she said the pastor asked. When her co-worker explained, the pastor exclaimed, "What wire transfer?" When the pastor and his secretary looked closer, they realized the e-mail purportedly from the pastor had his name — but a different "@***" address. That meant someone else owned that particular account and had set it up with the pastor's name to fool his secretary.

"One of our congregations has already fallen prey

see SCAM on p. 6

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

The pastor's spouse

I developed a real appreciation early on for the spouse of the pastor of the church of my youth, First Church in Belzoni. Since my pastor, Jasper Neel, became my pastor when I was ten years old and ministered to me until I was well into my college years, I came to know Mrs. Neel quite well, too. She was a quiet, stately woman who supported her husband through thick and thin (there was a lot of both) and served as a role model of Christian womanhood for the young men like me who were growing up under her and her husband's tutelage.

Mrs. Neel came to mind as I read about the latest survey and study by LifeWay Research, the arm of Southern Baptists' LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville that focuses on issues surrounding faith in our modern culture. The survey/study indicated that while there are rewarding aspects to being a pastor's spouse, life inside the fishbowl isn't always the proverbial bowl of cherries.

Among the survey/study findings as reported by Baptist Press:

- 95% of pastors' spouses believe their spouse is a good fit for their present church.
- 90% of them think ministry has had a positive effect on their family.
- 85% of those surveyed agree with the statement, "The church we serve takes good care of us."
- 79% of them are satisfied with their role in ministry.

However, the survey/study also exposed:

- 72% of pastors' spouses say their spouse has experienced resistance in the church.
- 69% of them say they have few people in which they can confide.
- 63% of those surveyed worry about having enough money for retirement.
- 59% of them say church commitments limit family time.
- 49% of them agree with the statement, "If I were honest at church about my prayer needs, [those needs] would just become gossip."

The positive numbers in the survey/study are high, but so are

the negatives. It should trouble us that over two-thirds of pastors' spouses feel that they can't find anyone in which to confide. Everyone needs someone they can trust. Everyone needs someone with whom they can talk about their doubts, misgivings, and anxieties. Why would we think pastors' spouses are any different?

Obviously connected to that problem is the high percentage of pastors' spouses who believe if they were honest (in other words, open) about their prayer needs, gossip about them, their marriages, and their families would ensue. That's scandalous. If you're engaging in that type of conduct, you need to stop right now. If you won't stop, then your church needs to, shall we say, lead you to see the benefit of moving in that direction.

The percentage of pastors' spouses who have witnessed resistance to their spouse's ministry is almost off the chart. It's not that pastors' spouses feel the pressure as acutely as their spouse — they feel it deeper and, I am convinced, it does greater harm to their spiritual well-being. That's also true for pastors' children.

We need to leave our egos at the front door of the church. None of us know everything, and some of us are prone to act in church as if we do. It's important that we don't allow smugness, and cockiness, and arrogance, and self-centeredness to control us — and that's especially true in church where we should be humbling ourselves before the Lord every time we step inside the doors.

To do any less is to hamper not only our personal witness but the corporate ministry of the church. Who wants to be responsible for that?

October is Pastor Appreciation Month across the Southern Baptist Convention. Every Mississippi Baptist church should show appreciation for their pastor, but what if every Mississippi Baptist church expressed their gratitude for their pastor's spouse during the month, too? It's an idea whose time has arrived.

Our pastors' spouses deserve it. More importantly, they need it. They won't tell you that, but it's true. Let's get busy telling them how much they mean to us.

Glory of Small Churches

Growing up in Boaz, Al., I was never aware that I was from a small town. I wasn't aware I attended a small church, either.

Oak Hill Church had an old-school preacher, a song leader, and a piano. The auditorium sat 75 people. There was no sound system, lighting, overheads, or projectors. We had three different hymnals. Our song leader had to make sure to announce both the page number and what color hymnal.

I learned about Jesus at Oak Hill Church. I learned to fear and love God, follow Jesus as Lord, repent of my sin, and have assurance in the perseverance of my faith. I learned salvation wasn't based on our ability to woo God, that it rested in the relentless love of God for our souls.

God used this country church in the hills of Sand Mountain and its untrained, KJV-only pastor who, at the pinnacle of his messages, would herald the cross of Jesus. He is still a hero to me.

I moved away from Oak Hill Church 20 years ago. The pastor is still there. They bricked the building, and finally started locking the doors.

After high school, I attended a Christian college in Missouri. After graduating, I went on to be a worship pastor in Wichita, a youth pastor in Detroit, and a worship pastor of a multi-site mega-church in west-central Illinois.

I was burned out, had unrepentant sin and anger in my life, and I needed the time for catharsis. I took a three-year break from vocational ministry to work for a restaurant chain.

While managing a store in Joplin, Mo., my wife and I decided that I would serve a small church nearby. I began leading worship for a church across the state line in rural Kansas. A strange thing happened. My love for the rural church was awakened and began to grow.

My career at the restaurant was going well but I couldn't shake my calling or passion for God's church. I felt a tremendous burden for areas of the country and churches that are off most folks' radar. Not many men are signing up for churches in communities in decline, with the closest supermarket 25 miles away.

My director of missions contacted me because a Church in Arma, Kn., had just



Guest opinion
with Brandon Pearce

closed its doors and left its building to the association. I had always wanted to plant a church, but in Kansas? In Arma?

After getting more details, I drove up to the little building. I had only one thought: "Absolutely not." It was a traditional white country church with no parking in a poor physical location. What could I possibly do here? Could anything good come out of that little, mold-infested building?

Over time, I felt the Lord pressing on me to take that little church and start something He could use to bring people to Himself. Out of that calling, The Grove Church was born. Today, we have a thriving church in a little town of 1,500 people. We have locals, families from many neighboring communities, and students from a nearby university.

When I initially sat looking at the building and thinking, "Can anything good come from here?" I had forgotten Nathaniel's response to Philip in John 1:46 when Philip revealed that they had found the Messiah: "Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'"

When people ask me why I am a rural church planter or ask what good can come from Arma, my response is always the same: "Come and see." We herald the Gospel. We exalt Jesus. That, more than anything, is what rural churches need — the perfect Gospel, faithful preachers, and Jesus exalted.

Pearce is the lead/teaching pastor of The Grove Church in Arma, Kn. (thegroveSEK.com). This column first appeared at Midwestern Seminary's For the Church website, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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LifeWay Research: Being pastor's spouse mixed blessing

NASHVILLE (BP) — A new study released Sept. 12 shows being married to a pastor means a life filled with joy and purpose — and a lot of headaches.

Most pastors' spouses feel a call to ministry and enjoy their roles inside and outside their church, notes the LifeWay Research study about the lives of Protestant pastors' spouses, but many also have few friends, think they yell at their kids too much, and worry about money.

LifeWay Research is a Nashville-based, evangelical research arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches.

The representative study of 720 spouses found their lives are complicated and filled with blessings and stresses, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

"Despite their challenges, most pastors' spouses say they are happy," he said.

Diverse group

LifeWay Research's survey focused mainly on spouses of a senior pastor or solo pastor at Protestant churches from a variety of denominations, including Baptist (29%), non-denominational (15%), Methodist (nine percent), Lutheran (nine percent) and Assemblies of God (seven percent) congregations.

The survey also included spouses of Presbyterian (four percent), Pentecostal/charismatic (three percent), Church of Christ (three percent) and Church of God (two percent) pastors, among others.

Most of the spouses in the study are married to pastors who work at least 35 hours a week for the church (90%). Half have children at home (53%). Nine percent have seminary degrees. Half have spent at least 20 years as a pastor's spouse. Eighty-six percent have responsibilities at their church, including 19% who are on the church's staff.

More than half work outside the spouse's church (55%). A quarter work for a church, ministry, or other nonprofit.

Most are women (96%). Most also feel a strong call to ministry (81%) and in the big picture, they're satisfied with their lot in life.

Among the study's findings:

■ 93% believe their spouse is a good fit for the present church.

■ 90% think ministry has had a positive effect on their family.

■ 85% say, "The church we serve takes good care of us."

■ 83% enjoy their ministry work.

■ 79% are satisfied with their role in ministry.

Still, there are many challenges. Conflict in a church and a sense of loneliness are commonplace among pastors' spouses.

Among the issues:

■ 72% say their spouse has experienced resistance in the church.

■ 69% say they have few people they can confide in.

■ 68% worry about having enough money for retirement.

■ 59% say church commitments limit family time.

■ 49% say, "If I were honest at church about my prayer needs, they would just become gossip."

Finances, friends

Like many Americans, pastors' spouses say money is one of their biggest worries, the LifeWay Research survey found.

Thirty-six percent say they worry every month about making ends meet. Forty-six percent say they worry about not being able to save for the future. Sixty percent say the compensation paid by the church isn't enough to support their family.

Many also feel isolated, with few close friends other than their spouse. Sixty-two percent, for example, say they can count on their spouse "a great deal" when they feel under stress. Fewer say they can depend a great deal on other family members in their household (14%), other relatives (12%), friends at church (10%), friends outside church (12%), or other ministers' spouses (nine percent).

Half say they don't confide in people at church because they've been betrayed in the past.

Fifty-five percent also say they don't have enough relationships where they can be themselves. That's in part because there is constant pressure to keep up appearances, according to the LifeWay Research survey.

Seventy-nine percent say their congregation expects their family to be a "model family," while 86% say they are expected to have a model marriage. Half feel they live in a fishbowl.

Churches often have unrealistic expectations for a pastor's spouse, said Kathy Litton, a national consultant for pastors' spouses at the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga.

"They feel like their family needs to be perfect," Litton said. "When congregations paint that picture for you, that's a lot of pressure."

Litton, who has been a pastor's spouse for nearly four decades, said when she was younger she often felt pressure to present a good example as a family when in reality they just needed to apply the Gospel in their family, she said.

"Pastors and their spouses don't need to try to keep up appearances at church or at home," she cautioned. "It's especially critical for our kids to see us as human frail parents who need Jesus and the Gospel like anyone else. Our homes need to be places of vulnerability and reality."

Among Protestant pastors' spouses

MINISTRY ROLE OF SPOUSES

Which of the following best reflects your ministry role as a spouse?

I sense a personal call to ministry, yet I serve and lead in very different roles than my spouse. **56%**

I sense a personal call to ministry, and I serve and lead in very similar roles as my spouse. **25%**

I sense no personal call to ministry, yet I fully support the calling of my spouse. **19%**

I sense no personal call to ministry, and I am very detached from the calling of my spouse. **<1%**

LifeWay

LifeWayResearch.com

Among Protestant pastors' spouses

FEELINGS OF SPOUSES

Congregational demands interfere with our family's free time together during the week.

41% Disagree **59% Agree**

Our family's financial situation requires more than the salary received from the church.

40% Disagree **60% Agree**

My spouse has experienced resistance to his/her leadership.

28% Disagree **72% Agree**

The church we serve takes 'good care of us.'

15% Disagree **85% Agree**

Our congregation feels our marriage should be a role model for them to look to in shaping their own marital relationships.

14% Disagree **86% Agree**

LifeWay

LifeWayResearch.com

Living the call

The LifeWay Research study did provide clues for how pastors' spouses can thrive in their roles.

Those who feel a strong sense of personal call to ministry tend to be more satisfied with their role. Those who have strong marriages and friends they can count on also are more likely to thrive.

By contrast, those who feel burned out by their ministry or have experienced conflict and struggle trying to balance church life and family are much less likely to be happy.

A sense of calling to ministry is key, Litton said. It's hard to survive as a pastor's spouse without it, she said. "The ones who struggle are the ones who don't feel a

sense of call. There's no safe place for them to talk about that."

Pastors and the spouses can also thrive by putting their family first and not the church, said Mark Dance, executive director of LifeWay Pastors. It's a model that other couples in the church can follow.

"Creating a culture of healthy marriages starts in the pastor's home," he said.

Dance's wife Janet, who leads retreats for pastors' wives, said planning ahead is key. "If you don't plan ahead, it's not going to happen. We have to give pastors' spouses permission to put their families on their calendar."

Many of the challenges pastors' spouses face aren't unusual, McConnell said. Lots of Americans worry about money or feel lonely, he said. They struggle with conflict at work and have a hard time balancing work and family responsibilities, but few of them have the added pressure of being role models or spiritual examples, he said.

That makes the role of a pastor's spouse unique. Despite the complicated nature of their lives, ministry remains rewarding for many pastors' spouses. "They feel a sense of joy and satisfaction in their work," McConnell said, "and they see that as a blessing."

The study was sponsored by First Church, Houston, Texas, the North American Mission Board, and physician Richard Dockins of Houston, Texas. The mail survey was conducted June 21 to Aug. 2, 2017. The completed sample is 720 pastor spouses.

There have been books written and movies made about time machines. Sometimes they take you backwards and sometimes they take you forward, but it's always an exercise in imagination and what-ifs and what-is. I recently had the privilege of being caught in a time machine. I'm not sure how many people who were with me on that day felt a sense of amazement and wonderment as I did in a few hours flying through this stratosphere in the time machine.

It was back in August 2017 and I was to speak on Sunday morning for the 175th Anniversary of the Pleasant Ridge Church in Union County. With joy, anticipation, and expectation, I looked forward to being there to celebrate with them 175 years of ministry beginning in 1842 and continuing until that day. The church had been meeting to worship Jesus and preach the Good News of the living Savior. Just think about it. They have been meeting Sunday after Sunday for over 9,100 Sundays. To look at it another way the church has been preaching the Good News and serving the folks for about 65,000 days, and here we were gathering to celebrate again.

I say it was a time machine event for me because I couldn't look at going there on the 175th Anniversary without thinking and re-thinking and enjoying and standing amazed at the 125th Anniversary of Pleasant Ridge Church. When we had that anniversary, I had the privilege of being the pastor. I was twenty-one years of age when I went there. I thought that I had gone to the greatest church in the whole world — and in fact, for me, it was.

When Shirley and I arrived there, we had been married all of four months. We knew everything about marriage



A Pleasant Time Machine

and raising children and life and how to grow old gracefully. Whatever you asked us we knew, or at least I did. There we were working with some of the finest people in the whole world and loving a congregation that was just filled with great old seasoned saints, wonderful leaders in mid-life, great young people, and children all around us. It was an amazing time in our lives and ministry.

As I told them on the 175th Anniversary, I, along with many other pastors, came to Pleasant Ridge Church thinking I would make some kind of impact or at least have some input in leading the church, only to find out the impact was made on me more than what I made on them. So here I am thinking about 50 years ago while preparing for the 175th Anniversary and looking at this landscape of life.

I felt led to preach on the subject, "So Great a Cloud of Witnesses," from Hebrews 12. In so doing I was going to

look at 175 years of time and history and what God had done. The time machine was certainly a pleasant one and larger than just my small slice of remembrances. As I shared with the folks on that remembrance day, the past 175 years have been anchored to looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith but we have observed that great cloud of laymen and laywomen and great pastors who have been there from the outset making a difference in a community and in Kingdom work.

It was not possible to talk about everyone who had been a part of the church in those 175 years, of course, but I was able to point to a few who had been a part of the cloud of great witnesses that still remains. There are far more people in the cloud of witnesses than just one in the crowd like me, but I am so thankful to have been a part of that great experience.

Over the bulk of my journey serving Jesus, some of the people I mentioned

to the church on that anniversary were people like J. B. Gambrell who started The Baptist Record and was its first editor. Later, he would serve numerous churches across our state and Texas. He would help start schools and serve in educational positions and serve four terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

People who in recent years have served as the president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention like Kermit McGregor, Rex Yancey, and Jimmy Porter all had Pleasant Ridge Church experiences and roots. The folks there on the scene now are following in the steps of so many great people who have been so strong, faithful, and effective in their leadership. People have come along not to fill their shoes but to step up and walk in their own shoes as they live for Jesus.

Still, overarching everything is the fact that Jesus is the foundation and the builder of His church and He is still Lord being lifted up as the Savior of the world and the One who can guide every step of every day in your life. The members of Pleasant Ridge Church, like so many of our churches across Mississippi, after 175 years keep on faithfully moving forward to serve Jesus to the best of their ability. May God bless each of our churches, whether 200 years old or a 100 years old, or celebrating their first anniversary. God be praised and His people be blessed as His mighty power is still at work. I often think of that great old statement that says, to the past we say thank you and to the future we say welcome.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

- **Shiloh Church, Houma:** One-day revival, Oct. 1, with three speakers; breakfast, 8 a.m.; services, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m.; Matt Brown, Jason Webb, and Ron Meeks, speakers; Thomas Rakestraw, music; Kevin Brown, pastor.
- **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia:** Homecoming, Oct. 1; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Dudley Williamson, speaker; Larry Lott, music.
- **Macedonia Church, Sherman:** 105th anniversary, Oct. 1; services, 10 a.m. — noon, followed by a potluck lunch.
- **Good Hope Church, Philadelphia:** 151st anniversary, Oct. 1, 11 a.m.
- **Trinity Church, West Point:** Revival, Oct. 1 — 4; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly through Wed.; Edd Knox, speaker; Charlie Farrar, music.
- **First Church, Lauderdale:** 44th annual celebration, Oct. 1; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship; Mike Russell, speaker; Paul Barkley, music.
- **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle:** Homecoming, Oct. 1, 10 a.m., fol-



During revival at **FIRST CHURCH, EUPORA**, guest speaker Barry Corbitt had a special meal with the children participating in the children's ministry and their parents and shared a few words.

lowed by covered dish lunch; Sam Jones, speaker; R.V. Smith, music; Keith Thompson, pastor.

► **New Hope Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 1; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; group picture, 10:05 a.m.; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Tim Parker, speaker; Bradley White, music.

► **Enon Church, Grenada:** Homecoming, Oct. 1; service, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Lowell Ingram, speaker; Bo Oswalt, music.

► **Shady Grove Church, Lucedale:** Homecoming, Oct. 1; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship lunch; Ronnie Maxie, speaker; David Chatham, music.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

UIK LPSF DPSOO ZF WKIUZF S GSA, ZU

PB DPSOO VSZA FPB LPIOB LIKOT, SAT

OIDB PZD ILA DIMO?

GSKC BZVPF: FPZKFN-DZJ

Clue: $K = R$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm 86:4

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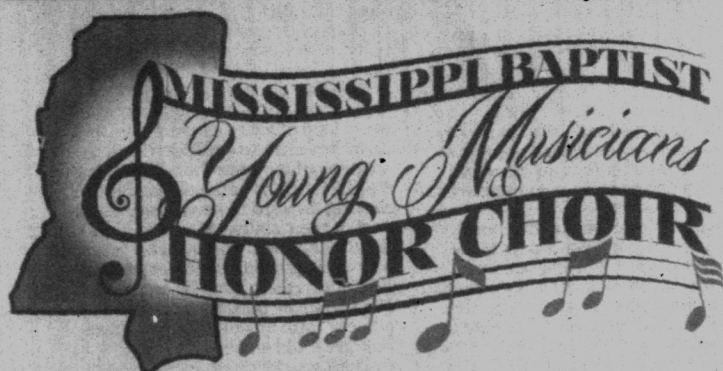
HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 28, 2017

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Church Music



SAVE THE DATE: April 21-22, 2018

Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir auditions are continuing through November. These video auditions may be submitted by: e-mail, snail mail, Dropbox or text.

DEADLINE: November 15, 2017

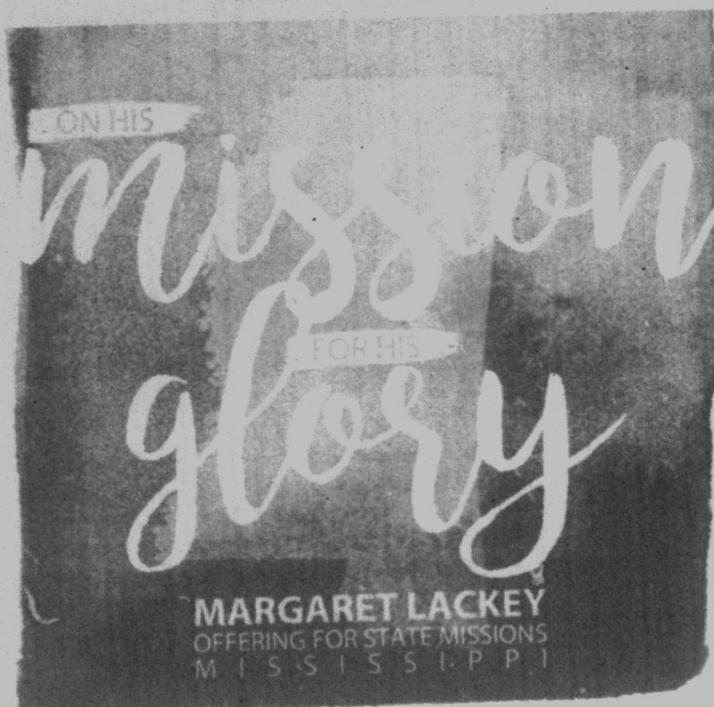
Inquiries may be directed to Wyndy South at 601-292-3272 or wsouth@mbcb.org



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Pastor/Leadership Development

PASTOR DATE NIGHT



Wayne & Terri Van Horn
Mississippi College
Clinton, MS



Brian & Candi Crawford
City Light Church
Vicksburg, MS



Mark & Janet Dance
Lifeway Christian Resources
Nashville, TN

November 6

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Temple Baptist Church

5220 Old Hwy 11

Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Dinner, Child Care, and Gifts!

FREE, but you must register: <http://lfwy.co/2v7Bdyf>
Questions - contact Vesta Clary at 601-292-3305

2018 Stewardship Emphasis

Transparency

Complying with God's Directives

If the Lord is God,
then follow Him!

1 Kings 18:21

For more information, contact the Stewardship/
Cooperative Program Department at
601-292-3347 or fleavell@mbcb.org

Merry Christmas!

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Fairview BC, Columbus

Saturday, October 7
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Belden BC, Belden

Sunday, October 8
12:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Belden BC, Belden

Saturday, October 14
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Baptist Building, Jackson

Sunday, October 15
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Baptist Building, Jackson

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WOMAN'S
MISSIONARY UNION

ARISE SHINE



WHEN WE RISE UP
HE SHINES THROUGH

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2018 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST AREA & STATE KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

JANUARY 25
6:30 - 8:30 PM

AREA 2	FBC, Tupelo
AREA 2	FBC, Starkville
AREA 3	FBC, Jackson
AREA 4	Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian
AREA 5	Main Street BC, Hattiesburg
AREA 5	FBC, Summit
AREA 5	FBC, Pascagoula
AREA 5	FBC, Laurel

JANUARY 26
6:30 - 8:30 PM

AREA 1	FBC, Senatobia
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JANUARY 27
9:30 AM - NOON

AREA 1	Emmanuel BC, Grenada
AREA 1	North Greenwood BC, Greenwood

For more info, contact Wyndy South at
601-292-3272 or wsouth@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

September 29 - October 12, 2017

"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Jeffery & Lissa Holman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Tracy & Eugenia Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

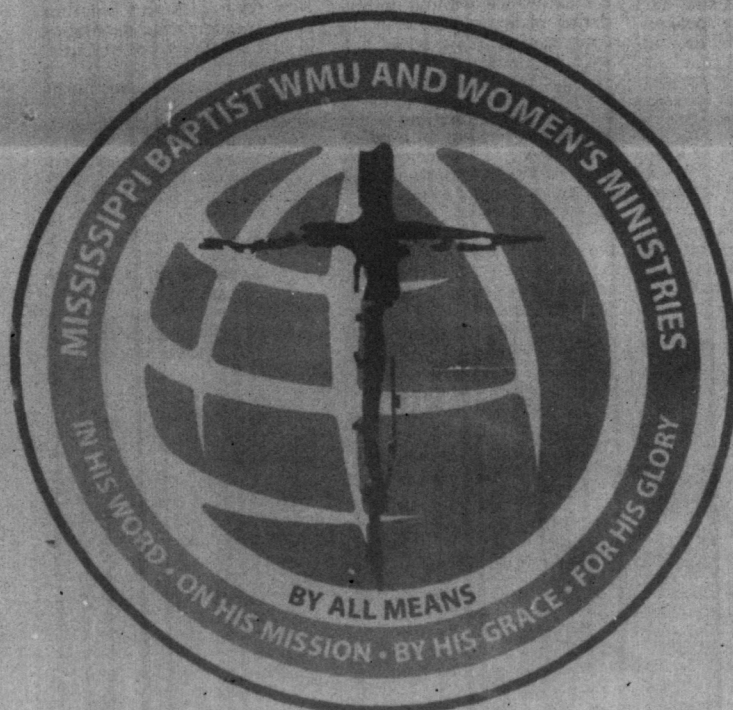
Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Pascock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education & church/home outreach evangelism.



ACTS 1:8 BANQUET

WMU Annual Meeting participants are invited to attend the Acts 1:8 Banquet at 4:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall West, FBC, Jackson. Attendance is free but you must register to attend. Please call or e-mail Tori Baldwin at 601-292-3317 or tbaldwin@mbcb.org to RSVP by Tuesday, October 10, 2017. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

MISSISSIPPI WMU ANNUAL MEETING

First Baptist Church, Jackson

October 30, 2017

12:00-4:30 p.m. - Chapel



Wisdom-Martin



Harmening

Guest Speaker: Sandy Wisdom-Martin
"New" Executive Director for National WMU

Worship Leader: Teresa Harmening

Special Guests: IMB Representatives

Reception Honoring Janet Green
for four years of outstanding service
as our president

2:00 p.m. - Chapel Parlor

HOUSE TOPS

Music leaders assemble in Nashville to 'Sing!'

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP) — The first time Keith Getty sat down to write the melody for a new hymn, he penned the now-classic tune for, *In Christ Alone*. It's been all downhill from there, Getty said with a wry smile at the recent Sing! conference in Nashville.

A few of his friends may disagree.

More than 4,000 pastors, music leaders, and musicians attended the three-day celebration of congregational singing, highlighted by a standing-room-only hymn sing at the Grand Ole Opry House.

The Getty Music-led event was part theological reflection, part how-to training, and part feast of hymn singing. Many of the hymns were composed by Getty, recently named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.

Getty urged attendees to enjoy being in God's presence during the conference, seeing it as a time of celebration as well as training. "We want creativity, we want joy and laughter," Getty said as conference kicked off

Sept. 18 at Brentwood Church just south of Nashville.

Sing! is also the name of Keith and Kristyn Getty's latest book from B&H Publishing, available at LifeWay.com.

The conference was inspired in part by meetings the Gettys had with pastors across the United States. Those meetings left them concerned about the state of congregational singing in churches.

After Sunday services, he said, few pastors were asking, "How did the congregation sing?" That's a concern, he said, as singing plays a vital role in passing on the Christian faith from generation to generation.

"God's people have learned their faith in significant part by what they sing," Getty said.

More than half of conference attendees were pastors. Getty urged them and the musicians present to see themselves as partners in mission — building up "deep believers" grounded in theology and devotion to God.

For the first of what they hope will be annual events, the Gettys invited speakers such as

pastor Alistair Begg, International Mission Board President David Platt, theologian D.A. Carson, and radio host Joni Eareckson Tada.

Musical guests included violinist David Kim, the concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs.

Platt in his remarks drew a direct connection between congregational singing and missions. "Worship is the why of missions. If we are going to be serious about the mission of God, we must be serious about the glory of God.

"This is our delightful duty... Our deepest joy, pleasure, and satisfaction is not found in the pleasures of this world but in the worship of our God."

Platt urged pastors, music leaders, and musicians to see singing and worship as a group activity, not a spectator sport. "Participation establishes our continuity with the people of God throughout history... When we sing we are dedicating ourselves to the mission of God."

Getting people to sing isn't easy, said conference speakers. One way to start is by reminding people of God's goodness and grace in their lives, said Begg, senior pastor of Parkside Church near Cleveland, Oh.

Reminding people to set down their cellphones for a few minutes would help as well, said D.A. Carson, research professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

It's hard to worship or to sing God's praise when you are constantly distracted, he said.

"What this means on the practical level is making the Bible more important than the



WORSHIP CELEBRATION — More than 4,000 pastors, music leaders, and musicians attended Sing!, a three-day celebration of congregational singing hosted by Getty Music at Brentwood Church near Nashville. (BP photo)

iPhone," Carson said. "Reading the Bible is more important than checking email."

Musicians have to walk a fine line when leading congregational singing, pursuing musical excellence without intimidating ordinary people in the congregation. It's a tricky balance, Begg said.

Trust is also key, said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship and a longtime music minister. Speaking on a panel about how to improve congregational singing, Harland said a song leader has to earn people's trust.

That takes time, he said. If the song leader doesn't know the congregation well, the leader won't know what songs will work. If people in the congregation don't know the leader, they won't follow the leader in singing.

"You're earning the right to lead them," Harland said.

Leading well also means seeing yourself as an ordinary church member, said Jonathan Rea, creative director of New Irish Arts and longtime choral leader. Leading singing is just another form of Christian service.

Panelists also urged music leaders to search high and low for songs that span the breadth of Christian life.

Churches need songs that teach theology as well as songs that make an emotional connection, Rea said. The idea is to create a balanced spiritual diet of music.

Next year's Sing! conference will be Sept. 10-12, at Nashville's Music City Center. Registration is already open at gettymusicworshipconference.com.

MS POSITIONS

PERKINSTON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. The Church is located in Perkinston, MS and is adjacent to Perkinston Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Please send resume to Amanda Cloy, Perkinston Baptist Church, P.O. Box 263, Perkinston, MS 39573 or email to arae1312@yahoo.com

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN MS NEEDS A DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MINISTRY. This is a part-time position. For more info call Judy Hudson @ 601-754-5491 or send resumes to jsmith@aabelegal.com

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN SOUTHERN LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MS, IN THE CLARKDALE COMMUNITY, IS AN ACTIVELY GROWING CHURCH. We are prayerfully seeking to fill a new full time staff position of Associate Pastor of Education and Families. Those who are passionate for God and passionate about developing and ministering to church families, please email a resume to nhccaspcasiorsearch@gmail.com.

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PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE: Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation rest, etc.) 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Member of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608 or bennyhornsby.com

OBITUARIES

Bartis Benton Harper, 87, long time Mississippi Baptist pastor, died Sept. 5 at Regency Hospital in Hattiesburg. Funeral service was Sept. 8 at Hullett-Winstead Funeral Home Chapel in Hattiesburg. Interment followed in Highland Cemetery in Hattiesburg. Frank Gunn officiated. Harper was a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg, where he earned a bachelor of science degree. He also did graduate work during which time he surrendered to the ministry. While at USM, he received various awards and honors. He was a charter member of the USM Alumni Association, serving as its president in 1963, and was afterwards inducted into the USM Alumni Hall of Fame. He earned his bachelor of divinity and master of divinity degrees at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. He served as a trustee of Southwestern Seminary from 1984-93. While serving churches in Mississippi;

Harper was a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for ten years and served as chairman of several committees. He was a very active pastor not only in Mississippi but also in Texas and Alabama. He was a member of Main Street Church in Hattiesburg and served for several years as a chaplain for Forrest General Hospital Hospice Program in Hattiesburg. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bura V. Harper and Minnie Welch Harper, two sisters, and one brother. He is survived by his wife, Mary Kate Bowling Harper; one daughter, Teresa Tynes; one brother, John Harper; one sister, Adriene Campbell; and one granddaughter.

Kent Hays Cochran, 68, long time Mississippi Baptist pastor, died June 19. Funeral service was held June 23 at Pleasant Grove Church in Brookhaven, where he served as pastor. He was born in Clarks-

dale on October 26, 1949, to Frank Ralph Cochran and Josephine Leona Hays Cochran, and grew up in Meridian. He graduated from Meridian High School, Meridian Community College, Delta State University in Cleveland, and New Orleans Seminary. His ministry career spanned more than 40 years, serving Pleasant Grove Church for twenty-five of those years. He served on the staffs of Midway Church, Jackson, and Midway Church, Meridian. Cochran pastored Calvary Church, Louisville, and Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven. He also served on many committees of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Lincoln Association. He was a member of the U.S. National Guard. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Millie Boyd Cochran; daughter, Kelli Cochran Spring (Clint); son, Ryan Kent Cochran (Emily); sister, Cathy Cochran Mel-dahl (Craig); and one grandson.

THEORY

cont. from p. 1

with the Institute for Creation Research, said natural selection cannot deal with the complexities of how organisms adjust to their environment because the concept has the whole process backward.

Natural selection makes the environment the active agent and all living things just passive modeling clay.

However, nature doesn't possess a brain — it can't select, Guluzza said. Organisms can self-adjust only because God designed them with innate internal systems that continuously track environmental changes and make appropriate adjustments.

Natural selection says we have to be adaptable in order to adapt and evolve, but how do we become adaptable unless we have the internal systems to do so? Guluzza said. "It is like the chicken and the egg riddle in which everything has to show up at once."

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CP

cont. from p. 1

initiatives such as those under way in the Caribbean.

In addition, the Executive Committee made provision for other SBC entities to assist with hurricane relief from their budgets through a one-time action to suspend SBC bylaw stipulations.

The Executive Committee also issued a Call to Prevailing, Intercessory Prayer in light of recent natural disasters, including wildfires raging in the West and the current cultural tumult in the U.S. such as racism and "rampant disregard for the commands and teaching of God's Word."

"It's important that Southern Baptists be proactive, take a stand and say, 'We want to bless those who are hurting in this difficult time,'" he said.

The Executive Committee took similar action after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 ruined the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coast areas as well as the city of New Orleans.

Stateside, nearly 400 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units from multiple states had been deployed in various capacities in Florida and Texas as of Sept. 19, preparing nearly 1.9 million

meals; tackling nearly 2,000 chain saw, mud-out, debris removal, and mold remediation assignments; engaging in 1,300 Gospel conversations; and witnessing 225 professions of faith.

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) teams have completed their 100th mud-out/cleanup work order in the Orange, Texas, area, according to Dan Gann, MBDR coordinator and director of men's ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"Teams there will be at work through October," he said.

The MBDR Mass Feeding Unit, mobilized Sept. 14 and stationed at Idlewild Church in Lutz, Fla., in the Tampa area, was deactivated on Sept. 27 as meal preparation counts declined to about 500 per day from a high of 20,000 per day.

"Power is back on in most of the state," Gann said. "The only two kitchens that are still open are in the Miami area and in the Florida Keys. Miami is scheduled to shut down Sept. 29. No date has been yet set for the Florida Keys kitchen."

For information on donations and volunteering, visit mbcb.org and click on Situation Updates. MBDR is supported by gifts to Mississippi CP, the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, and donations.

Staff Changes



◀ **ENON CHURCH, GRENADA**, has called Lynn Welch as pastor Sept. 17. He is married to Phyllis Welch.



▼ **FIRST CHURCH, MYRICK**, ordained Craig Walters as their student pastor Sept. 17. He is shown with pastor Rory M. Dill along with others.

SCAM

cont. from p. 1

to this and been defrauded of \$19,900," another social media correspondent revealed. "We have heard from a bank in the community that they have questioned and stopped two other such requests."

Certified Public Accountant Michael E. Batts, editorial advisor for Christianity Today's Church Law & Tax Team writing at nonprofitcpa.com, confirmed

the scam is in operation and offered tips on how to prevent falling prey to it:

■ Alert your entire management and leadership team to this type of scam.

■ Have your organization's IT team advise you regarding how to detect or screen for spoofed e-mail addresses.

■ Maintain an agreement with your bank that requires two separate appropriately high-level people in your organization to authorize any wire transfers or similar disbursements.

■ Maintain a policy that forbids finance personnel from making or authorizing distributions of funds based on e-mail or similar instructions alone. Require that finance personnel actually speak in person or by phone (by calling the person's known number) with the party who is requesting the distribution.

■ Maintain a policy that forbids finance personnel from making or authorizing disbursements without proper and complete supporting documentation, regardless of who makes the request.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Sufficient • Exodus 16:1-5, 11-20

Gripping - Whining - Grumbling - Beefing - Belly-aching - and moaning are just a few verbs used to describe what we all do on a daily basis. The Apostle Paul had a few words of wisdom: "Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world" . . . (Phil. 2:14-15 NASB). Billy Graham said, "Grumbling and gratitude are, for the child of God, in conflict. Be grateful and you won't grumble. Grumble and you won't be grateful."

The people of Israel grumbled when they arrived at Marah and found bitter waters (Ex. 15:23). God provided sweet waters by having Moses throw a tree into the water. Then when they came to Elim they found 12 springs of water and 70 date palms. God provided an oasis in the wilderness.

Exodus 16 begins with the congregation in the "Wilderness of Sin"; someone began the grumbling and voiced how good it was to have had the pots of meat and the bread while being slaves in Egypt. Spreading like feathers in the wind, the grumbling grew and grew until the entire congre-

gation was voicing and shaking their heads in agreement. And whose fault was it? Moses and Aaron's? God's? Someone has called it 'spiritual amnesia'. We also question the future and forget what has transpired in the past; which is God's faithfulness!

And of course, God was listening to all of the grumbings. He tells Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you . . ." (vs. 4 NASB) and it will be on the ground first thing every morning. A daily portion would be provided for six days. However, on the sixth day, they were

to gather twice what was needed. This was God's test as to whether or not they would follow the instructions given to them. Another way of stating it, God was questioning their obedience.

So the quails came up at twilight and covered the camp. No shotguns needed here! The people simply went out and gathered what they needed. Then in the morning, there was a layer of dew.

When the dew evaporated what was left was "a fine-like thing, fine as the hoarfrost on the ground" (vs. 14 NASB). Unless you are a meteorologist, most of us are not familiar with the word 'hoarfrost'. The Weather Channel calls it "frost on steroids". It is the fine white crystals attached to loose ground, grass, or objects. So strange was it the people of Israel asked, "What is it?" Moses told them it was 'manna' or bread from heaven.

On the 15th day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt, their first twilight in the wilderness, the people

of Israel witnessed an act of God which affirmed His power and sovereignty over His creation. There was meat in their pots and when they awoken the next morning there was bread to their filling—no more or less than what was needed. Gratitude should have filled their hearts. The same should be true for us when we see how God provides for our daily needs.

Remember the instructions given, nothing was to be held over until morning (vs. 19). Imagine their surprise when those who hoarded found worms and a foul smell where once there was manna. They did not listen to Moses and he was angry. By hiding the food the people were questioning God's provision; a lack of trust. When you and I are obedient to God's precepts and commands we are trusting; just as the people of Israel had to rely upon God's sufficiency so must we (See 2 Cor. 12:9).

The word manna is mentioned in the New Testament three times: John 6:31-33, Hebrew 9:4, and Revelation 2:17. In the Scripture text in John, Jesus reminds the people, "...It is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world" (vs 32-33 NASB). Jesus then went on to say, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (v.35).

Are you grateful or are you grumbling?

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



Explore the Bible

with Laura Leathers

Battle Armor • Ephesians 6:10-20

Last week in Sunday School, we studied a lesson titled "Fear Not." The elderly pastor, John, separated from his church which he lovingly called "my little children" sought to reassure those little children in very hard times. The Apostle John reassuringly wrote, "You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one in you is greater than the one who is in the world," 1 John 4:4 (CSB). In today's lesson passage the Apostle Paul wrote, "Be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength," Ephesians 6:10 (CSB). These New Testament passages sound very similar, don't they. God's word is consistent if nothing else. And, of course, it is consistent because it is much more; it is God's infallible word without any mixture of error.

Peter had warned us the difficulties of this earthly life are compounded by Satan since he is "prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour," 1 Peter 5:8 (CSB). But even Joshua had assured in the Old Testament that we could "Be strong and courageous," Joshua 1:7 (CSB). God will take care of us if we trust Him because, "God is Love," 1 John 4:8b (CSB).

As Americans, we are fortunate to have governments and effective po-

lice forces that protect us constantly. If you have to call your local Law Enforcement Officer for help he or she will come trained and equipped to give you and your family the help you need. I personally am reassured every time I see a sheriff's deputy or uniformed officers by equipment they have at the ready. Take their duty belt as a clear example. My son's duty belt always has a pistol, holster, 2 extra loaded magazines, handcuffs, a key holder, expandable baton, radio, flashlight, and multi tool. Other items could be added if the immediate situation indicates need for them. The game warden I talked to in one of my churches where I preached recently also carried pepper spray and a Taser.

If you need help the police will not be limited to the items an officer carries on his belt. But the items on the duty belt are readily available and I for one am reassured every time I see the officer is ready. The duty belt is an im-

portant part of a well equipped peace officers preparation. The first piece of armor that the Apostle Paul identified was the belt. The Roman belt was not well equipped like a modern duty belt but it was very important because it held everything the soldier had together and in place. He might also have had his sword in his belt. Paul tells us the well equipped follower of Christ should "Stand, therefore, with

truth like a belt around your waist," Ephesians 6:14a (CSB).

The belt of truth is the first resource listed to help us stand against evil

schemes that Satan will bring against us. There is much more that God offers us to strengthen us against the cosmic powers of darkness. The Bible challenges us to: "put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic

powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. . . having prepared everything, to take your stand," Ephesians 6:11-13 (CSB).

Truth is the duty belt of the follower of Christ. Certainly any decision or action based on a lie is unsafe and undependable. But the truth of this belt in its fullest meaning is Christ Jesus Himself. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth {this emphasis is mine}, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:6 (KJV). This part of "the full armor of God" will be "able to resist the evil day" and prepare you "to take your stand."

"Righteousness like armor on your chest" is a challenge to live within God's will and biblical teaching as interpreted to us by the Holy Spirit using "the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God," Ephesians 6:17b (CSB). Baptists have traditionally had a high view of Scripture which included the idea that God's word is a Sword that children and youth could learn through Sword Drill, which is now called Bible Drill. Baptist attention to Holy Scripture had been a strength of our tradition and given us a sword and armor against the schemes of that Old Serpent.

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.

Bible Studies for Life

with Don Hicks



Just for the Record



DOUBLE SPRINGS CHURCH, MABEN, held a baby dedication Sept. 17. Left to right, row 1: Haddie Quinn Kelly and parents Allen & Nicki, Jackson Butler and mother April, Cora Kate Seawright and parents Olivia & Matt, Hattie Swindle and parents Nicole and Greg with brother Cooper. Row 2: Molly Grace Hardy and parents Kayla and Jamie, and Linleigh Kate Reed and parents Brailey and Dyllan.



TUCKERS CROSSING CHURCH, LAUREL, promoted and recognized their preschool and Mission Friends students. Carolyn Holifield, preschool director; Bobbie Bridges, Mission Friends director. Eddie Bryant, pastor.



OXFORD KOREAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, OXFORD, held an installation service for their new pastor Sept. 17. Shown are pastor Thomas Jeong, his wife Hanna, and Clay Anthony, Collaborative Missionary Network AMD.



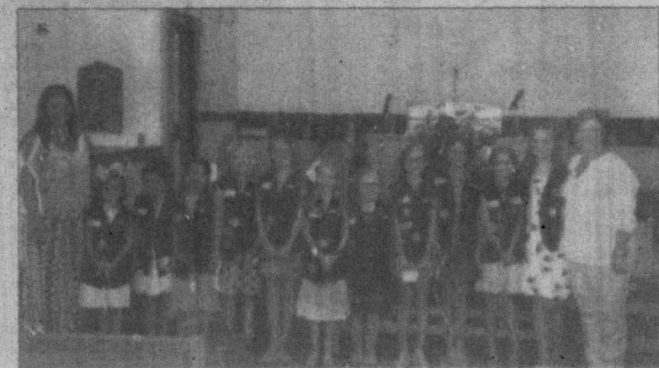
MEADOW GROVE CHURCH, BRANDON, ordained Christian Pruett to the pastoral ministry Sept. 10. Shown are Pruett and pastor Steve Wilson. Pruett has been called as pastor to Eastside Church, Pelahatchie.



TOPEKA CHURCH, LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION, held an ordination service for Eddie Dupre of Centerville Church. Shown are Amber Dupre, Dupre, and Dale Authement, pastor.



HARPERVILLE CHURCH, HARPERVILLE, held a deacon ordination Sept. 17 for Jacob Lee. Shown with Lee are his wife, Jessica, and children, Rainey, Gage and Gabby. Bobby McKay, pastor.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, held a GA badge recognition Sept. 10. Holly Kimbrell and Amaryllis Leggett, leaders; Hal Hatten, pastor.

CELEBRATING
Heritage and Hope

150 YEARS

Sunday
October 22, 2017 | 10:30 A.M.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DURANT, MS

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017.
WE ARE CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.
REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 9 O'CLOCK A.M.
SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 10:30 O'CLOCK A.M.
A FELLOWSHIP MEAL WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE.

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BUILDING? RENOVATING? EXPANDING?

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